



0000030739

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKET

CARL J. KUNASEK

Chairman

JIM IRVIN

Commissioner

WILLIAM A. MUNDELL

Commissioner

OCT 10 2000

DOCKETED

IN THE MATTER OF CITIZENS UTILITIES)
RURAL COMPANY INC., CITIZENS)
COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY OF)
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS AND NAVAJO)
COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY TARIFF)
FILINGS TO REFLECT THE ESTABLISHMENT)
OF ENHANCED FEDERAL LIFELINE AND)
EXPANDED LINK UP SUPPORT FOR)
QUALIFYING LOW-INCOME CONSUMERS ON)
TRIBAL LANDS)

DOCKET NOS. T-01954B-00-0662
T-03214B-00-0663
T-02115A-00-0664

DECISION NO. 62932ORDER

Open Meeting
October 4 and 5, 2000
Phoenix, Arizona

BY THE COMMISSION:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 1, 2000, Citizens Utilities Rural Company, Inc., Citizens Communications Company of the White Mountains and Navajo Communications Company (collectively, Citizens) filed tariff revisions to reflect the establishment of Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Enhanced Tribal Lifeline and Expanded Link Up Programs:

Citizens Rural – Telephone Services Tariff

Section 2, Sheet ii, 3rd Revised
Section 2, Sheet 9, 1st Revised
Section 13, Sheet 2, 1st Revised
Section 13, Sheet 5, 1st Revised
Section 13, Sheet 6, Original
Section 13, Sheet 7, Original

Citizens White Mountains – Exchange and Network Services Tariff

Check Sheet, Sheet 1, 6th Revised
Check Sheet, Sheet 2, 6th Revised
Subject Index, Sheet 1, 5th Revised
Subject Index, Sheet 2, 1st Revised

Rules, Sheet 1, 5th Revised
Rules, Sheet 8, 2nd Revised
Lifeline Service, Sheet 1, 2nd Revised
Lifeline Service, Sheet 3, 1st Revised
Lifeline Service, Sheet 6, 2nd Revised
Lifeline Service, Sheet 7, Original
Lifeline Service, Sheet 8, Original
Service Connection, Sheet 1, 3rd Revised
Service Connection, Sheet 3, 1st Revised

Navajo Communications – General Exchange Tariff

Section 0, Sheet 1, 4th Revised
Section 1, Sheet 2, 2nd Revised
Section 4, Sheet 1, 3rd Revised
Section 4, Sheet 4, 1st Revised
Section 4, Sheet 6, Original
Section 15, Sheet 2, 2nd Revised
Section 15, Sheet 8, Original

2. The FCC in its Order 00-208, released June 30, 2000, approved additional Lifeline and Link Up support for qualifying low-income individuals living on tribal lands. Citizens is requesting that the proposed tariff revisions have an effective date of October 1, 2000, the date by which telecommunications carriers must comply with the new rules adopted in FCC Order 00-208.

3. On September 21, 2000, Citizens amended its filings:

Citizens Rural – Telephone Services Tariff

Section 2, Sheet ii, 3rd Revised
Section 2, Sheet 9, 1st Revised
Section 13, Sheet 2, 1st Revised
Section 13, Sheet 5, 1st Revised
Section 13, Sheet 6, Original
Section 13, Sheet 7, Original

Citizens White Mountains – Exchange and Network Services Tariff

Check Sheet, Sheet 1, 6th Revised
Check Sheet, Sheet 2, 6th Revised
Subject Index, Sheet 1, 5th Revised
Subject Index, Sheet 2, 1st Revised
Rules, Sheet 1, 5th Revised
Rules, Sheet 8, 2nd Revised
Lifeline Service, Sheet 1, 2nd Revised
Lifeline Service, Sheet 3, 1st Revised

Lifeline Service, Sheet 6, 2nd Revised
Lifeline Service, Sheet 7, Original
Lifeline Service, Sheet 8, Original
Service Connection, Sheet 1, 3rd Revised
Service Connection, Sheet 3, 1st Revised

Navajo Communications – General Exchange Tariff

Section 0, Sheet 1, 4th Revised
Section 1, Sheet 2, 2nd Revised
Section 4, Sheet 1, 3rd Revised
Section 4, Sheet 4, 1st Revised
Section 4, Sheet 6, Original
Section 15, Sheet 2, 2nd Revised
Section 15, Sheet 8, Original

4. Minor revisions were made to the original filings. Citizens has agreed to waive the 30-day time limit for the Commission to act so that the filings can be addressed at the October 4 and 5, 2000, Open Meeting.

5. In its Order, the FCC established an additional (fourth) tier of federal Lifeline support available to telecommunications carriers serving qualifying low-income individuals living on tribal lands. This fourth tier of support consists of up to \$25.00 per month per primary residential connection. This amount added to the initial three tiers of Lifeline support add up to a reduction in the carrier's basic local service bill of up to \$31.10. This benefit, however, may not bring the local service bill of a qualifying individual below \$1.00 per month.

6. An individual who qualifies for the Enhanced Tribal Lifeline Program is also eligible for an additional benefit of up to \$70.00 under the Expanded Link Up Program. This benefit would apply to the cost of connecting service at the individual's principle place of residence and would apply towards 100 percent of the connection charges between \$60.00 and \$130.00 when service is established.

7. Approval of the proposed tariff revisions will enable Citizens to provide the additional Lifeline and Link Up support to qualifying low-income individuals who are living on tribal lands within its service area.

8. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the filings, as amended.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Citizens is an Arizona public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV, Section 2, of the Arizona Constitution.

2. The Commission has jurisdiction over Citizens and over the subject matter in this Application.

3. Approval of the filing does not constitute a rate increase as contemplated by A.R.S. Section 40-250.


4. The Commission having reviewed the tariff pages (copies of which are contained in the Commission's tariff files) and Staff's Memorandum dated September 26, 2000, concludes that the tariffs, as amended, are reasonable, fair and equitable and therefore in the public interest.

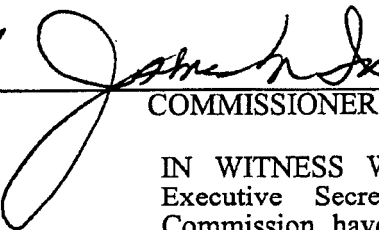
ORDER


THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the filings, as amended, be and hereby are approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Decision shall become effective immediately.

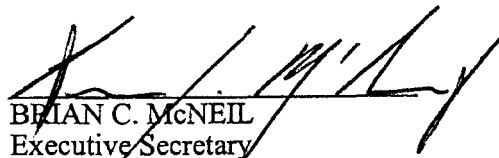
BY ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION


CHAIRMAN


COMMISSIONER


COMMISSIONER

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, BRIAN C. McNEIL,
Executive Secretary of the Arizona Corporation
Commission, have hereunto, set my hand and caused the
official seal of this Commission to be affixed at the Capitol,
in the City of Phoenix, this 10th day of October, 2000.


BRIAN C. McNEIL
Executive Secretary

DISSENT: _____

DRS:DWS:lh